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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Road Construction in Albania
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1. The road connecting the town of Tepelene with the lignite mine at Menaliaj is 7,500 meters in length. Work on the construction of this road began in April 1949. The road is surfaced with gravel, and because of the steep terrain, fills had to be constructed along the entire length of the road. There are about 30 small bridges constructed of wood along this road.
 2. The road from Puke to Kolgecej is 45 kilometers in length; 400 workmen were employed in July 1949 to complete this road, which was to be finished by the end of 1949. This road will permit full exploitation of the forests of the Kolgecej region.
 3. Work began in October 1948 on the surfacing, with asphalt, of the road from Vlone to Milot.
 4. The road from Strelce to Shaten (in the province of Korce) is 10 kilometers in length; it was completed in 1949. It is surfaced with gravel and connects the Luzan highway with Strelce. This road will aid in the exploitation of the forests in the Strelce region. Near Strelce (and this road) there has been installed a sawmill which in November produced 18 cubic meters of lumber per day. The lumber required to erect a sugar refinery at Maliq will be taken from the Strelce region.
 5. The Pegin-Elbasan section of the railroad line from Dures to Elbasan is being constructed under the supervision of Soviet engineers. A tunnel 179 meters long has been constructed at Bishqemit. Work on three railroad bridges is going ahead at Bone, Rapai and Balu.
 6. The road from Tropoje to Shkoder has a total length of 65 kilometers. Construction work began in January 1950; it is expected that the road will be completed by the end of 1950. It will be surfaced with gravel. The completion of sections of this road has been undertaken by the administrative committees of the towns of Puke (5 kilometers), Kukes (25 kilometers), Shkoder (10 kilometers) and Tropoje (25 kilometers). These committees began their work by imposing compulsory labor on the inhabitants of their regions. In spite of the severe winter and the lack of shoes and other necessities for the inhabitants, the administrative committees of these towns are reportedly using terroristic methods to "persuade" the inhabitants to get on with this work.

CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 14 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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